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## Give your baby a chance.

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### Kelli's Story

My name is Kelli and I found out I was pregnant when I was a freshman in high school. I was so scared that I hid my pregnancy from my family and friends. I worried that people would reject me or be angry with me if they found out I was pregnant. I was wrong.

I delivered my baby by myself. Because I was still too frightened to talk to anyone and ask for help, I made a terrible mistake that I can never take back. I left my newborn on a neighbor's porch. My baby died there, and my life will never be the same. I don't want the same thing to happen to you and your baby.

Please, if you are pregnant, talk to a parent, a teacher, a parent of your friend or other adult that you trust. I know that talking about your pregnancy is difficult, but there are people who can help you.

If you don't want to keep your child, please give him or her a chance to grow up. The law in Illinois allows you to leave your unharmed newborn baby at a staffed police or fire station, hospital or emergency care facility. Babies up to seven days old will be given a health exam and medical care, and then adopted by a loving family.

**For confidential information or help, please call 1-888-510-2229**

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**1-888-510-2229 (Toll-free)**

or visit the **Save Abandoned Babies Foundation** at:  
[www.SaveAbandonedBabies.org](http://www.SaveAbandonedBabies.org)

**For information about adoption, contact:**

**Illinois Adoption Registry**  
**Toll-free • 1-877-323-5299**

[www.idph.state.il.us/vital/iladoptreg.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/vital/iladoptreg.htm)

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## How you can help

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- After you read this brochure, pass it on to someone else.
- Become a "voice" for the children by sharing information about the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act with people in your school, community or family.
- Encourage your organization, school, or club to write a story about the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act.

**Tell a friend. Talk about it.**  
**You might save a life.**



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***No Shame.  
No Blame.  
No Names.***



***Illinois has a  
safe place for  
your newborn.***

*No one knew you were pregnant.  
No one knows about your baby.  
You can't take care of your baby.  
What are you going to do?*

An unwanted pregnancy can be a traumatic experience. You may have overwhelming feelings of isolation, fear, or shame that could lead to irrational thoughts or acts, such as unsafely abandoning your baby.

Each year in Illinois, there are disturbing reports of newborn babies found in dumpsters and other unsafe places. Under the Illinois Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act, unharmed infants seven days old or younger can be left at safe havens. No questions will be asked. You don't have to give your name. The police will not be called. Your baby will get medical care and be adopted.

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## Where are safe havens?

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In Illinois, the safe havens for newborns are:



- Staffed fire stations
- Staffed police stations
- Hospitals
- Emergency care facilities

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## What does the law do?

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The law is intended to provide an alternative to the parents of newborn infants to relinquish their unharmed infants to staff in safe havens while remaining anonymous and avoiding civil or criminal liability. It is recognized that establishing a traditional adoption plan through a private or public adoption agency or choosing to parent the child is a preferable parenting plan to abandonment or relinquishment of an infant. However, the purpose of this law is to reduce the risk of harm to a newborn by a parent who may be under undue stress.

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## What happens at a safe haven?

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Newborns can be brought to a hospital, emergency care facility, staffed police station or staffed fire station. Staff members at emergency care facilities, fire stations and police stations will make arrangements for transportation of the infant to the nearest hospital.

Hospital personnel will conduct a physical examination of the relinquished newborn infant and provide any needed medical care. The hospital is deemed to have temporary protective custody of the newborn infant until the infant is discharged to an adoption agency.

**If you wish, you can fill out forms to provide medical information about your newborn that will help healthcare workers taking care of your baby.** The forms may be filled out at the hospital, emergency care

facility, fire station or police station. You may also take the forms home and return them by mail, or download the packet from [www.saveabandonedbabies.org](http://www.saveabandonedbabies.org) or [www.state.il.us/dcfs](http://www.state.il.us/dcfs). All of the information that you provide remains confidential. You do not need to give your name.

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## Parental rights

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There is a presumption that by relinquishing a newborn infant at a safe haven, the infant's parent consents to the termination of his or her parental rights with respect to the infant.

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## Consider adoption

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Every child deserves a safe, loving, permanent home. You can help provide this by planning to have your baby adopted, even before giving birth. Several public and private agencies in Illinois provide services to those who choose to free their children for adoption. Agency staff carefully interview and check the backgrounds of prospective adoptive parents to make sure that they:

- Have no criminal or child abuse history
- Have room in their home for a child
- Can support the child financially
- Can provide a loving, safe home

For information about adoption, please call the Illinois Adoption Registry: 1-877-323-5299 (toll-free in Illinois) or [www.idph.state.il.us/vital/iladoptreg.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/vital/iladoptreg.htm).